Appl. No. 10/615,142
Reply to Office action of February 8, 2007

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended)   A port for connecting to a switching fabric, ~~having~~ comprising:

a plurality of signal resources dividable into at least a first resource subset and a second resource subset, ~~said port configurable in a plurality of configurations and said port comprising:~~

a first bus having a first bus section connected to the first resource subset and a second bus section connected to the second resource subset;

a second bus connected to the second bus section;

a fault mode control operably coupled to the first bus and the second bus for selectively configuring the port as at least one of a first interface, a second interface and a third interface.

~~a first interface operable whereby said port is in a first configuration,~~

said first interface incorporating said first resource subset ~~and~~,

said first interface not incorporating said second resource subset,

~~a second interface operable whereby said port is in a second configuration,~~

said second interface incorporating said first resource subset and said second resource subset,

~~a third interface operable whereby said port is in a third configuration,~~

said third interface incorporating said second resource subset, and[[,]]

said third interface not incorporating said first resource subset.

2. (currently amended)   The port of claim 1, for co-operating with a core, and ~~additionally~~ further comprising a switching circuit, and wherein said switching circuit is controlled by the core and capable of coupling either said first, second, or third interface to said core.

3. (currently amended)   A method of fault tolerance in a network having a primary fabric, a replacement fabric and an endpoint, said endpoint including a port, the port having

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including a plurality of signal resources dividable into at least a first resource subset and a second resource subset and a plurality of buses, said port configurable in a plurality of configurations.

Said said method comprising the steps:

configuring the port as a first interface incorporating the first resource subset,

detecting a failure of communication at said endpoint,

notifying said primary fabric to terminate communications,

notifying said replacement fabric to initiate communications,

recovering data lost in the failure.

terminating communications at said first interface,

configuring the port as a second interface incorporating the second resource subset, including switching one or more operational connections between the plurality of buses and the plurality of signal resources,

and initiating communications at said second interface.

4.(currently amended)   A method port as claimed in claim [[3]] 1, where the switching fabric comprises a first fabric and a second fabric.

5.(currently amended)   A method port as claimed in claim 4, wherein the first fabric is a primary fabric.

6.(currently amended)   A method port as claimed in claim 5, wherein the second fabric is a replacement fabric for the replacement of the primary fabric.

7.(currently amended)   A method port as claimed in claim 6, wherein the replacement fabric comprises a cold standby fabric.

8. (currently amended)   A method port as claimed in claim 6, wherein the replacement fabric comprises a hot standby fabric.

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9. (currently amended)   A ~~method~~ port as claimed in ~~claims 1-7~~ claim 1, wherein the port is compliant with a standard.

10. (currently amended)   A ~~method~~ port as claimed in claim 9, wherein the standard is RapidIO.

11. (currently amended)   A ~~method~~ port as claimed in claim 9, wherein the standard is Hpyertransport™.

12. (new)   A network comprising:

a plurality of endpoints, each having the port of claim 1 and connected to a first external bus associated with the first resource subset and a second external bus associated with the second resource subset;

a plurality of network switches including:

a primary network switch connected to the first external bus for each endpoint, and

a replacement network switch connected to the second external bus for each endpoint for the replacement of the primary network.

13. (new)   A method of configuring a port having a plurality of signal resources dividable into at least a first resource subset and a second resource subset, a first bus having a first bus section connected to the first resource subset and a second bus section connected to the second resource subset, and a second bus connected to the second bus section, the method comprising the steps of:

operating on the first bus and the second bus to selectively configure the port as at least one of a first interface, a second interface and a third interface,

said first interface incorporating said first resource subset,

said first interface not incorporating said second resource subset,

said second interface incorporating said first resource subset and said second resource subset,

said third interface incorporating said second resource subset,

said third interface not incorporating said first resource subset.

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